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Jawaab as-Shaykh al-Khadeem Lil-Musta`mireen al-Faransiyyeen

The Answer of the Shaykh Khadeem

Ahmadu Bamba

to the French Imperialists
Who Accused Him of Gathering Weapons in Preparation for Jihaad

Translated by:

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Published by

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Institute of Islamic - African Studies International
The Palace of the Sultan of Maiurno
Maiurno, Sennar, Sudan

www.siiasi.org

Book design by Muhammad Shareef

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

In the name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful

يَا جُمْلَةً قَدْ ثَلَّثُواْ بِضَلالِهِمْ * مَنْ لَّمْ يَكُنْ وَّلَدٌ لَّهُ أَوْ وَّالِدُ

O troops who have made three in their error
Of the One who has no offspring nor parent

أَخْرَجْتُمُونِي نَاطِقِيْنَ بِأَنَّنِي * عَبْدُ اَللَّهِ وَإِنَّنِي لَمُجَاهِدُ

You have concluded about me saying that I am
a slave of Allah and that I am one who makes *jihad*

وَظَنَنْتُمُ أَنَّ اَلْمَدَافِعَ عِنْدَنَا * وَالْكُلُّ مِنْكُمْ ذُو قِلًى وَيُحَاسِدُ

You suspect that we have guns and canons
For all of that from you is just mere hatred and envy

وَمَقَالُكُمْ حَقٌّ فَإِنِّي عَبْدُهُ * وَخَدِيْمُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ وَهْوَ الْحَامِدُ

However, your words about me are true, for I am His slave.
And I am the servant of the Slave of Allah the praised one.

وَمَقَالُكُمْ إِنِّي أُجَاهِدُ صَادِقٌ * إِنِّي لِوَجْهِ اللَّهِ جَلَّ أُجَاهِدُ

Your saying that I am a man of *jihad* is truthful
For verily for the sake of Allah the majestic I am struggling

إِنِّي أُجَاهِدُ بِالْعُلُومِ وَبِالتُّقَى * عَبْدًا خَدِيْمًا وَالْمُهَيْمِنُ شَاهِدُ

For verily I struggle with **sciences** and with **fearful awareness**
In this I am a slave and servant, the Guardian is my witness

إِنِّي لَهُ عَبْدٌ خَدِيْمٌ لِلنَّبِيِّ * وَهْوَ الْمُقَدَّمُ وَالشَّفِيْعُ الشَّاهِدُ

I am indeed a slave and a servant of His to the Prophet
He is my forunner and the witnessing intercessor

صَلَّى عَلَيْهِ بِأَلِهِ وَصَحَابِهِ * بِسَلَامِهِ رَبٌّ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدُ

Blessing be upon him along with his family and companions
with the peace of the Sustainer the One God

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صَلَّ عَلَيْهِ مُسَلِّمًا وَأَعَاذَنِي * مِنْ قِتْلِنَا إِبْلِيْسَ وَهْوَ الْمَارِدُ

Blessings which contains peace be upon him, He has protected me
from the warring of Iblis against us, he is a recalcitrant demon.

وَأَقَامَنِي سُبحَانَهُ بِالْمُصْطَفَى * فِيْمَا بِهِ تَأتِي الْمُنَى وَأُشَاهِدُ

He has established me, glory be to Him with the Chosen one.
Regarding what he brought and in this I am a firm witness.

وَبِهِ كَفَانِي أَهْلَ كُتْبٍ قَدْ طَغَوْاْ * وَالْكُلُّ مِنْهُمْ بِالتَّنَازُعِ حَاسِدُ

By him Allah has sufficed me against the people of the Book who are oppressive.
For everything from them is done out of contention and pure envy.

سَيْفِي اَلَّذِي يَفْرِي طُلَى مَن ثَلَّثُواْ * تَوْحِيْدُهُ فَهْوَ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ

My **sword** which those who make three gods deceptively fabricate against me,
Is His divine unity (*tawheed*) for He is Allah the Solitary.

تَبًّا لِقَوْمٍ ثَلَّثُواْ بِضَلَالِهِمْ * مَّن لَّمْ يَكُن وَّلَدٌ لَّهُ أَوْ وَّالِدُ

May they perish, those who make three in their error
of the One who possesses no offspring nor parent.

أَفٍّ لِّقَوْمٍ أَشْرَكُواْ وَذُكُورُهُمْ * غُلْفٌ كُلٌّ جُبُّأٌ وَمُكَابِدُ

Curses to a people who make partners with Allah and
whose penises are uncircumcised drowning in a sea of arrogance

أَكْرِمْ بِرَبٍّ لَّمْ يَوَاخِذْهُمْ بِمَا * كَسَبُواْ هُنَا وَهْوَ الصَّبُورُ اَلْمَاجِدُ

Be ennobled by the Lord and construe them not by what
They have earned here in this life, He is the Forbearing the Glorious

نِعْمَ اَلَّذِي يَخْشَى الْإِلَهُ مُوَحِّدًا * وَيَرُومُ مَا يَرْضَى وَبِيسَ الْجَاحِدُ

Favors to he who, as a unifier, fears only Allah
And covets what pleases Him, and wretched are the infidels

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وَمَدَافِعِي اِللَّاتِي بِهَا أَنْفِي الْعِدَى * وَبِهَا يُفَارِقُنِي عَنِيْدٌ قَاصِدُ

And my **canons** and **guns** which the enemies accuse me of
By which an intending pigheaded is driven from me

ذِكْرٌ حَكِيْمٌ أَحْكِمَتْ أَيَاتُهُ * مِمَّن يُّزَحْزِحُ مَا يُرِيْدُ الْمَارِدُ

It is the wise reminder (*Qur'an*) whose verses are made decisive
By which demons who desire harm are driven away

وَبِهَا يُدَمْدِمُ لِي عَلَى مَنْ أَخْرَجُواْ * دُنْيًا وَأُخْرَى فَهْوَ رَبٌّ مَّاجِدُ

By which those who forsake me are caused to complain
In this life and the next and He who causes it is the Lord the Glorious.

وَبِهَا نَجَاتِي مِن مَّكَآئِدِهِم مَّعَا * وَبِهَا اللَّيَالِيَ فِي الْظَّلَامِ أُكَابِدُ

By which I am redeemed from their plots altogether
By which I am made to endure during the darkness of my nights

أُكْرِمُ بِهِ ذِكْرًا حَكِيْمًا جَادَلِي * رَبِّي بِهِ وَهْوَ الْكَرِيْمُ الْمَاجِدُ

I am ennobled by it as a wise reminder and it is my argument
My Lord educates me by it, He is the Generous the Glorious

أَمَّا رِمَاحِي فَالْأَحَادِيْثُ اللَّتِي * وَرَدَتْ عَنِ الْمَاحِي وِنْعْمَ الْوَارِدُ

As for my **spear**, it is the Prophetic traditions (*ahaadeeth*) which
Have been related from the best of watering places the one who obliterates

وَبِهَا أُزَخْزِحُ بِدْعَةً قَدْ أَحْدَثُواْ * وَبِهَا يُلَازِمُنِي سَعِيْدٌ عَابِدُ

By which I drive away heretical innovation which has been invented
By which necessitates me to be a joyous worshipper

وَبِهَا يُفَارِقُنِي غُرُوْرٌ يَخْتَفِي * وَبِهَا يُلَازِمُنِي إِرْتِفَاءٌ خَالِدُ

And by which deceptions are driven from me and made to vanquish
By which necessitates me to ascend the Eternal Ascension

أُكْرِمُ بِمَنْ قَدْ جَآءَنَا بِنُصُوصِهَا * نِعْمَ الْمُجَاهِدُ فِي الإِلَهُ الْعَابِدُ

I am ennobled by the one who brought its expressive style
He is the best of those who struggle in Allah the best of worshippers

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نِعْمَ الْمُشَفَّعُ فِي الْخَلَائِقِ كُلِّهِمْ * يَوْمَ الْجَوَى نِعْمَ الشَّفِيعُ الْقَاعِدُ

He is the best of those who intercede on behalf of the entire creation
On the Day of intense grief, he is the best of intercessors and leaders

نِعْمَ الْمُقَدَمُ فِي الْكِرَامِ جَمِيْعِهِمْ * وَبِهِ يُفَارِقُنِي عَنِيْدٌ رَّاصِدُ

He is the best of managers in all persuasions of nobility
By means of him enemy spies are driven from around me

صَلَّى عَلَيْهِ بِأَلِهِ وَصَحَابِهِ * مَن لَّيْسَ يَعْجِزُهُ كَنُودٌ شَارِدُ

Blessings be upon him along with his family and companions
From Him who is not made impotent by any ungrateful fugitive

بِسَلَامِهِ وَبِهِ هَدَانِي بِالْعُلَى * حَتَّى اَعْتَلَتْ بِهِ أُمُّنَا وَالْوَالِدُ

And give him peace for by him I have been guided to the ways of the Exalted One
Until even our mother and father are raised up by means of my station

أَمَّا الْفُرُوعُ فَأَسْهُمٌ قَدْ حُدِّدَتْ * لِحَدِيْثِهِ إِنَّ الْفُرُوعُ زَوَآئِدُ

As for the branches (*furu`*), for they are my **arrows** (*sihaam*) which have been sharpened
They are the branches of the Prophetic traditions, for the branches are an outgrowth

وَبِهَا أُزَحْزِحُ صَآئِلًا مِّن شُبْهَةٍ * عَن جَانِبِي إِنَّ السِّهَامَ طَوَارِدُ

By which I drive away the assaults of things which are dubious
From around me, because my arrows are incessant and persistant

أَمَّا اَلَّذِي يَتَجَسَّسُ اَلْأَسْرَارَ لِي * فَتَصَوُّفٌ صَافٍ جَلَاهُ أَمَاجِدُ

As for that which acts as **my spies** (*jassasu*) gathering up secrets
For it is *sufism* by which I have been draped in the most illustrious serenity

عَنَّا جَزَى الْأَسْلَافَ خَيْرًا رَّبُّنَا * يَوْمَ الْجَزَآ فَهْوَ الشَّكُوْرُ الْمَاجِدُ

By it our Lord recompensed the forebears with good and upon us
On the Day of Recompense, for He is the Thankful the Glorious

عَنَّا جَزَى مَنْ بَيَّنُواْ بِنَصِيْحَةٍ * مَّا فِيْهِمَا وَبَدَتْ بِذَلِكَ فَوَآئِدُ

By it we were rewarded the sincere advice of those who clarify
What is in the Book and the *Sunna* and by that advantages became clear

يَنْفِي الْعِدَى عَنِّي الْأَذَى لَا أَبْتَغِي* بَدَلًا بِهِ فَهْوَ الْحَفِيْظُ الطَّارِدُ

By it the harm of the enemies have been negated from me and I do not desire
A substitute for it, for He is the Protector the Repeller of harm

وَهْوَ اَلَّذِي قَدْ كَانَ لِي وَأَعَاذَنِي * أَبَدًا بِهِ مِمَّن قَلَى وَيُحَاقِدُ

He is the One who has been for me and defends me always
By means of *sufism* from those who hate and harbor rancor

قَدْ صَانَنِي دُنْيًا وَأُخْرَى أَمِنًا * وَيَقُودُ لِي مَا قَبْلُ مِنْهُ وَارِدُ

By it I have been safeguarded with security in this life and the next
And by it what was deposited for me before from Him has been assigned to me

إِن كَانَ لِلْأَعْدَآءِ أَسْلِحَةٌ بِهَا * خِيْفُواْ فَأَسْلِحَتِي تِهِ وَأُجَاهِدُ

Therefore, if I have weapons for the enemies by which
They are made to fear, for my weapons are as they are and by them I struggle

وَبِهِ يُفَارِقُنِي شِرَارٌ ثَلَّثُواْ * وَتَنَازَعُواْ وَالْكُلُّ مِنْهُمْ حَاسِدُ

By means of them the evils of those who make three gods are driven away from me
Although they challenge me, all that is from them is mere envy and jealousy

وَبِكَوْنِ رَبِّي لِي أَكُوْنُ مُوَحِدًا * مَن لَّمْ يَكُن وَّلَدُ لَّهُ أَوْ وَّالِدُ

I have become a unifier of the One who is to me a Sustainer
The One who does not possess an offspring nor parent

يَا اللَّهُ يَا رَحْمَنُ يَا رَبَّ الْوَرَى * يَا مَن لَّهُ كُلِّي وَفِيْكَ أَعَاهِدُ

O Allah! O Beneficent! O Lord of humankind!
O He to whom belongs the totality! In You I have made a covenant.

كُن لِّي بِمَا فَاقَ الْظُّنُونَ تَكَرُّمًا * وَقِنِي اَلَّذِي فِيْهِ الْبَلَآ وَشَدَائِدُ

Be generous to me above what they assume about me
And save me from that which has in it affliction and difficulty

وَلْتُغْنِنِي دُنْيًا وَأُخْرَى يَا عَلِي * يَا مَن لَّهُ مِنِّي تَجِىءُ قَصَآئِدُ

Make me independent in this world and the next O Exalted!
O He for whom pours from me songs of praise!

يَا خَيْرَ مُغْنٍ بِالْكِتَابِ هَدَيْتَنِي * وَبِسُنَّةِ الْمَاحِي اَلَّذِي هُوَ حَامِدُ

O Best of riches! You have guided me by means of the Book
And by means of the *sunna* of the one who obliterates and is praised often

لِي أَشْهَدْ بِشُكْرٍ سَرْمَدًا لَّكَ مَعْ رِضًى * وَإِلَيَّ مِنْكَ طَرَآئِفٌ وَفَرَآئِدُ

Testify for me with an eternal gratitude towards You along with contentment
And from You give me every sort of exquisite and precious trait

يَا رَبِّ سُقْ لِي سَرْمَدًا فَوْقَ اَلَّذِي * أَرْجُواْ وَإِنِّي فِي مَحَلِّي قَاعِدُ

O Sustainer! give me an eternal station above that which
I hope for, for verily I am firmly seated in my spiritual locus

يَا خَيْرَ مُغْنٍ أَسْتَغِيْثُ بِفَضْلِهِ * يَا مَن لَّهُ مِنِّي هُنَاكَ مَسَاجِدُ

O Best of riches whose help is sought after by means of His bounty
O He who has a mosque built for me in His presence

لِي عَجِّلِ النَّصْرَ اَلَّذِي أَرْجُو هُنَا * حَتَّى يَلاَزِمَنِي هُنَالِكَ سَاجِدُ

Hasten for me the victory which I hope for here in this life
So that there in the Next I may fall in prostration of necessity

لِي عَجِّلَن نَّصْرًا عَزِيْزًا هَا هُنَا * حَتَّى يُفَارِقَنِي كَفُوْرٌ جَاحِدُ

Hasten for me victory and might here in this life
So that the disbelieving infidels can be driven away from me

وَأَدِمْ صَلَاتَكَ بِالسَّلَامِ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ * فِي أَلِهِ وَصَحَابِهِ يَا وَاحِدُ

And make eternal Your blessings with peace upon the Prophet
regarding his family and Companions O Unique One!

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينْ

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِيْنَ

Glory be to your Lord the Lord of Might above what they describe Him, and peace be upon the Messengers, and all praises are due to Allah the Lord of the worlds>

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